



FORESTRY NEWS




ITC's 40th Symposium Held at San Carlos

A dozen or so forestry staff members from Whiteriver were able to join their counterparts in San Carlos for the recent Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) Symposium. Part of this large group is shown across the bottom of this page. The host tribe, San Carlos, did a superb job providing for 370 people coming from all sections of the country that attended at least one day of the symposium. The theme this year was **"Strengthening Traditional Connections to the Land: The Future of Forest Management."** San Carlos was able to highlight their traditional connections to the land through workshops that included a native foods field trip, basket and cradleboard crafting, resource benefit fire field trip, a woodland workshop, and an ancestral foods and knowledge workshop. San Carlos elders and staff from Tribal Forestry and the

San Carlos Agency worked in unison to open their hearts and homeland to their visitors.



Forest Manager Dee Randall addresses attendees behind a podium decorated with this year's symposium logo that states in Apache "Taking care of our land with the utmost respect, heart and mind" Supervisory Forester Victoria Wesley, Dee's wife, is visible in the background. 

A very interesting panel at the symposium brought inspirational Indian leaders from across the country to share their life stories of how they ended up in their current positions. Included in this panel was Washington State Conservationist with the NRCS Roylene Rides-at-the-Door, Quinault Indian Nation President Fawn Sharp, and USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Arthur "Butch" Blazer. What an incredible opportunity for attendees and future leaders in Indian Country to be able to hear from and interact with these accomplished leaders! Wednesday was dedicated to the San Carlos Apache tribal tour where the host tribe was able to showcase many of their recent field accomplishments. The field trip included stops to look at prescribed burns and mechanical treatments of woodland areas, thinning treatments within woodlands, and a ponderosa



Participants gather around a large alligator juniper during discussions about woodland savannah restoration.

pine timber sale. Finally, at an overlook of the Skunk Fire, attendees gained understanding of this 73,600 acre fire-use fire. In the last few years, San Carlos has been at the forefront of the use of prescribed fire for resource benefit. The Host Tribe Presentation and the Host Tribe Welcome Dinner were both well done as well. It was great to be able to join our neighbors in this well-orchestrated event.

